

Stranded – Seven and Counting 2021

Reviewed by Drew Jarvie

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Seven and Counting are consistently brilliant, in fact nothing else just brilliant. Vinko Balkovic is a superb songwriter, behind him he has a superb band.

As they suggest, in their YouTube description, it is a 'roadhouse' style of song and it certainly starts that way. Hot Legs by Rod Stewart, especially its introduction (played by Billy Peek), comes straight to mind. A guitar riff, count 1234 and away we go.

One of things that marks the Seven out from other bands are the backing vocalists, sometimes singing a chordal accompaniment sometimes singing the answering phrase as in "Stranded's" chorus. These are one of reasons they have a unique sound. Vinko's vocals are another, clear never forced and sang in a story telling way, helps the flow.

However, Seven and Counting are very much a team effort, on this song a wonderfully crisp snare sound, harmonica playing a moody Steve Earle would love, bluesy country guitars, a beautifully placed bass line, throw in a great guitar solo and the song is complete.

As straight a four beats per song as you could get and that is a great thing as makes the song easy to relate to. Maybe everyone hasn't done what happens in the song but we do know someone that experienced this.

So, to the roadhouse or pub we go, we might as well sit beside Rod Stewart, Billy Peek, Steve Earle and watch as the band come on stage.

"You left me stranded on the shores"

But not for long, it's Seven and Counting, and we're all cheering and singing along!